

in western Pennsylvania, that can make a big difference with gas, groceries, or helping to pay the rent.

A chemistry teacher recently called my office in Beaver County to share her story about the health care law hurting her coworkers. The special needs teachers' aides in her school recently had their hours cut from 37½ hours to 28. That's a loss of \$180 per paycheck. Many of these aides depend on this job to provide health insurance for their families. Thanks to the health care law, these teachers' aides and their families will lose their health care coverage.

A mom from the North Hills of Pittsburgh recently got in touch with me to tell me about the impact of the health care law on her family's small business. Kathy and her husband recently learned that their health care plan will be discontinued December 31. Kathy told me that since ObamaCare was voted into law, we have watched our deductible soar, our premiums soar, and our blood pressures soar. Enough already.

Kathy's sentiment is shared by many of the western Pennsylvanians who called the office and whom I've talked to at small business and constituent gatherings around the district. In the real world, when you buy a product that comes with a guarantee, if the guarantee is not met, you get your money back and you look for a new product.

With only 13 days until the law begins to take full effect, more and more flaws are increasingly evident, and the President continues to delay, arbitrarily, major provisions of his health care law. We need to delay and dismantle the entire law so that a process of bipartisan health care reform can finally begin.

It's time for a new beginning. It's time for a government that looks to the American people and our doctors and health care providers, not as subjects to be managed, but as partners who can help solve problems.

It's time for a new beginning that brings Republicans and Democrats together. As President Kennedy once said, let us not seek the Republican answer, let us not seek the Democratic answer, but the right answer.

#### HONORING MEXICAN GUEST WORKERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE BRACERO PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. McNERNEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the millions of Mexican guest workers who came to the United States under the Bracero program from 1942 to 1964. The Bracero program is being highlighted by the Smithsonian exhibit, Bittersweet Harvest, and is being shown throughout the country.

At a time when our Nation was at war and laborers were scarce, President

Franklin Roosevelt and Mexican President Manuel Camacho created a guest worker program known as the Bracero program. In September of 1942, the first Braceros, under this agreement, arrived in Stockton, California, the heart of my district. These individuals embodied the American Dream by searching for a better life for themselves and their families, and worked hard to make it come true.

The Smithsonian exhibit uses personal stories from the Braceros to highlight their experiences in this program and what they endured while adjusting to a new life in the United States.

The San Joaquin Valley remains home to a strong and vibrant Mexican population, and the region's heritage and history has been enriched due to its diversity.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of the people who came to this country through the Bracero program.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF FLORA ARCA MATA

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I also wish to honor the life of an education pioneer in my district, Flora Arca Mata. Ms. Mata was the first Asian American, specifically, the first Filipina teacher in the Stockton Unified School District, breaking barriers of stereotypes that Asian Americans faced immediately after World War II, thereby helping numerous minority teachers join the education field.

Ms. Mata retired from teaching in 1978 and passed away last Wednesday, at the age of 95.

Ms. Mata was born in Honolulu and moved to Stockton in the 1920s. Her family settled in the Little Manila section of Stockton. She attended the University of California at Los Angeles, where she met, and later married, her husband, Vidal Mata.

Upon graduating from UCLA, neither Flora nor Vidal could find teaching jobs, so they traveled to the Philippines to teach. Returning to Stockton in the aftermath of World War II, Ms. Mata responded to a Stockton Unified ad seeking substitute teachers. A year later, she was hired to teach kindergarten full-time in the south Stockton school area.

A steadfast public servant, Ms. Mata remained involved in the education system until her eighties, working as a substitute teacher and volunteering in her granddaughter's kindergarten class.

Ms. Mata's commitment to the success of our students is an inspiration for our entire community. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the barriers Ms. Mata shattered and the road she paved for other individuals to enter the teaching profession.

#### POTENTIAL CUTS TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today opposed to the potential cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, an important food program that lifts families, children, and seniors out of poverty and provides an important safety net for those in need.

SNAP is our Nation's most important antihunger program. It provides food assistance to approximately 46 million Americans, and it kept 4.7 million people out of poverty in 2011, including over 2 million children. This food program has cut the number of children living in extreme poverty in America in half.

Now, earlier this year, my colleagues on the other side approved a farm bill, but left the food for America's families behind. They passed special subsidies for Big Ag but, for the first time in decades, excluded funding for food assistance for America's families in need.

And now, months after providing special subsidies for Big Ag, House Republicans are bringing forward a bill to cut food assistance by \$40 billion. Apparently, the first attempt at \$20 billion was not deep enough. So they pass a farm bill that provides corporate subsidies, but they leave food for America's families behind.

In my district and in the State of Nevada, more than 71 percent of SNAP participants are families with children. Almost 26 percent of all SNAP participants are in families with elderly and disabled members, and nearly 42 percent of all SNAP families are in working families.

So House Republicans support corporate welfare for Big Ag and big business, but cut food assistance for the elderly, for disabled, and, yes, even our veterans.

We should not be cutting the safety net for our most vulnerable while maintaining costly government subsidies for the well-off junk food, oil, and gas industries.

SNAP benefits, Mr. Speaker, average less than \$1.50 per person per meal. That amount is set to drop to about \$1.40 this fall, when the 2009 Recovery Act's temporary benefit boost ends.

Now, the person who receives \$1.50 per meal in Nevada is not the problem with the budget. The problem is corporate welfare and the special interest giveaways that litter our Tax Code.

I recently held a telephone town hall the last time the Republicans tried to gut food assistance for America's families and my constituents. I heard from families who are doing everything they can to provide for their families. I heard from seniors who are doing their best to keep their heads above water and moms who are doing their best to escape poverty. If we cut SNAP even further, we are cutting a lifeline for these families.

Now, another important constituency that is affected by this cut is our veterans. Census data indicate that nationwide, approximately 900,000 veterans receive SNAP assistance each